

# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: February 19, 2003

Division: BOCC

Bulk Item: Yes ☐ No ☒

Department: Commissioner Rice, District 4

**AGENDA ITEM WORDING:** Approval of resolution of support for authorization of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects for 2003.

**ITEM BACKGROUND:** Everglades restoration requires that Congress approve each restoration project, and two projects are scheduled for approval during the 2003 session of Congress. Every county government in South Florida has approved a resolution of support for the CERP projects except for Monroe County and Broward County. Broward Commissioners are set to hear the issue on their February agenda, approval is expected. As the wastewater and stormwater projects of Monroe County to clean up near shore waters, off-shore reefs, and Florida Bay dovetail with CERP efforts, no conflict with Congressional appropriations for funding is expected.

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:**

**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**TOTAL COST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BUDGETED:** Yes ☐ No ☐

**COST TO COUNTY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REVENUE PRODUCING:** Yes ☐ No ☐ **AMOUNT PER MONTH** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED BY:** County Atty \_\_\_\_\_ OMB/Purchasing \_\_\_\_\_ Risk Management \_\_\_\_\_

**DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

(David P. Rice, Commissioner, District 4)

**DOCUMENTATION:** Included ☒ To Follow \_\_\_\_\_ Not Required \_\_\_\_\_

**DISPOSITION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA ITEM #** 110

Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_-2003

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN; URGING CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON FEASIBILITY STUDY, THE SOUTHERN GOLDEN GATE ESTATES AND THE WATER PRESERVE AREAS, INCLUDING THE BIRD DRIVE RECHARGE AREA AND SOUTHERN COMPARTMENT OF THE HILLSBORO IMPOUNDMENT; AND SUPPORTING STATE APPROVAL OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON FEASIBILITY STUDY, THE SOUTHERN GOLDEN GATE ESTATES AND THE WATER PRESERVE AREAS PROJECT, INCLUDING THE BIRD DRIVE RECHARGE AREA AND SOUTHERN COMPARTMENT OF THE HILLSBORO IMPOUNDMENT.**

**WHEREAS**, the Everglades ecosystem, spanning from the Kissimmee River Valley to Florida Bay, is a significant national resource and international treasure; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County has long supported Everglades restoration and recognizes it as an important part of the future economic well being of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 11th, 2000, Congress approved the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP); and

**WHEREAS**, Everglades restoration must move forward expeditiously; and

**WHEREAS**, Everglades restoration requires that Congress approve each restoration project and three projects were not approved during the 2002 session of Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, three projects, the Indian River Lagoon Feasibility Study, the Southern Golden Gate Estates project and the Water Preserve Areas (Bird Drive Recharge Area and the Southern Compartment of the Hillsboro Impoundment), are immediately necessary because of development pressure, escalating costs of delay, and impending estuarine ecological collapse; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Compartment of the Hillsboro Impoundment may expand the potential for enhancing critical water storage; and

**WHEREAS**, these projects promise to provide large-scale restoration early in the CERP process, thus demonstrating the worth of the investment the federal, state and local taxpayers are making in this historic restoration effort; and

**WHEREAS**, these projects repair previous damage caused by federal and state water control projects; and

**WHEREAS**, these projects contain more than half of the total land area in the restoration plan, and, if approved expeditiously, will provide impressive ecological benefits well before 2010, including:

- 270 square miles (~172,000 acres) of restored and protected wetlands and uplands,
- restored habitat for more than 2,200 species, at least 35 of which are threatened or endangered (including, manatee, snail kite, wood stork, red-cockaded woodpecker, scrub jay, crested caracara, whooping crane, bald eagle, indigo snake, eastern loggerhead turtle, Atlantic green turtle, leatherback turtle, Atlantic hawksbill, and Atlantic Ridley turtle),

- tens of millions of dollars in associated economic and quality of life benefits annually,
- improved water quality for the Everglades, Florida Bay, 10,000 Islands, St. Lucie Estuary, and Lake Okeechobee; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

**Section 1.** Monroe County recognizes the significant value of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

**Section 2.** Monroe County urges Congress to authorize the Indian River Lagoon Feasibility Study, the Southern Golden Gate Estates Project and the Water Preserve Areas, including the Bird Drive Recharge Area and the Southern Compartment of the Hillsboro Impoundment, in a Water Resources Development Act or another legislative vehicle consistent with the assurances provisions of WRDA 2000.

**Section 3.** Monroe County urges the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection to approve the Indian River Lagoon Feasibility Study, the Southern Golden Gate Estates Project and the Water Preserve Areas, including the Bird Drive Recharge Area and the Southern Compartment of the Hillsboro Impoundment.

**Section 4.** A certified copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Chair of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Secretary of the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the President and CEO of Audubon of Florida.

**Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2003.

Mayor Dixie Spehar  
 Mayor Pro Tem Murray Nelson  
 Commissioner Charles "Sonny" McCoy  
 Commissioner George Neugent  
 Commissioner David P. Rice

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(SEAL)  
 Attest: DANNY L. KOLHAGE, Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
 OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor/Chairperson